

Stransky's Debut As Conductor of The Philharmonic

**Nervous at First, He
Makes a Good Impres-
sion—Zimbalist, the
Young Russian Violin-
ist, an Excellent Player.**

BY SYLVESTER RAWLING.

JOSEF STRANSKY, succeeding the late, lamented Gustav Mahler as conductor, made his initial bow to a New York audience at Carnegie Hall last night at the first concert of the Philharmonic Society's seventeenth season. There was a large audience, eager, expectant and tolerant, that gave him a friendly, if not too warm, welcome when he came upon the stage. His ordeal was a trying one and his nervousness was marked, but he bore himself valiantly and was applauded heartily before the evening was over.

It would be a rash man who should essay to put a definite label upon Mr. Stransky's talents after this one concert. He has scarcely had time to find himself amid the new surroundings, or to discover the capacities of his men. That he is a capable conductor there is no doubt. That he reaches after climaxes and is not afraid to call upon his orchestra to produce its utmost dynamic effects is evident. His heat is positive. He uses his left hand with remarkable energy. He seems already to have won the confidence of his players, and he certainly commanded the respect of last night's audience, of which Walter Damrosch was one.

The programme began with Beethoven's "Little Symphony in F"—the eighth—played somewhat perfunctorily, as the circumstances might have led one to expect. In Liszt's symphonic poem "Tasso," however, there was an finding of the conductor's bent to reach climaxes, that was accentuated by his reading of the prelude to "Die Meistersinger" at the end. The players were in the fettle, showing the precision and accuracy to which Liszt had trained them. It was a pleasure to see H. P. Schmitt at the head of the first violin. Some of us remember him gratefully from the Soldi days, and are glad that again he is concertmaster.

Mr. Stransky was not the only newcomer at last night's concert. The soloist was Lifron Zimbalist, a Russian only twenty-two years old, who was heard in Grieg's concerto in A minor and made a deep impression. Modest, unaffected and without mannerisms, the young man disclosed himself a thorough musician. His tone is

judicious, his technique is admirable and he plays with understanding and feeling and sentiment remarkable in one so young. He was heartily applauded and recalled many times. He will be heard again with gladness.

The concert will be repeated this afternoon.

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